



# Mr. Bentley's Driving School, LLC

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Department of State Provider Certification #: P000564

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## I am OPPOSED to Senate Bill 886

March 14, 2018

Attention:

Senate Transportation Committee

[jmosher@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:jmosher@senate.michigan.gov)

My name is Eric Bentley. I own and teach for Mr. Bentley's Driving School, LLC in Perry, Michigan serving Shiawassee, Clinton and Ingham Counties. I am the ADSTEA 2012 New Driver Education Teacher of the Year. I am a Driving Skills Test Examiner for the State of Michigan. I am also a 24-year veteran public school teacher for Perry Public Schools in Perry, Michigan.

Driver Education is very important in Michigan, to our Graduated Licensing System, and the lives of our teenagers and their families. I believe our students deserve the best teachers we can produce.

Senate Bill 886 provides for changes in our Driver Education Instructor Preparation law that would greatly degrade the quality of the new instructors completing the Driver Education Instructor Preparation Program. These new teachers need time to learn the curriculum and apply it in the classroom and in the behind-the-wheel lessons.

I believe it is best that the instructors of this program have a Master's degree in education, as they are educating a large number of non-teacher participants. The Instructors of the Instructor Preparation classes need many years of experience in both Driver Education classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction.

Driver Education programs need instructors that are well educated and ready to teach when hired. Providers do not have time or resources to conduct additional training. It would be best, from an education perspective, for these new teachers to go through each class, one at a time, and spend more than one week in each class with their instructor.

I'm not in favor of an online format for a Driver Education course. The teachers need hands-on experiences just like the teenage students. I would be happy to discuss my driver education experiences with those that have a say in this Senate Bill, and how these changes would affect the safety of our communities. Feel free to contact me.

**I encourage you to vote down Senate Bill 886.**

Sincerely,

Eric Bentley

Mr. Bentley's Driving School, LLC